



# A Wall Comes To Life

## WEC's Warehouse Wall Transformed by Scenes Honoring Work and Place

The experience of arriving at work has changed for the better for Washington Electric Cooperative's linemen, technicians, and other members of the staff who work out of the Co-op's warehouse/garage on Fassett Road in East Montpelier.

What has long been a drab and purely utilitarian cement-block building – a place to house and service the Co-op's trucks and off-road vehicles and to store the vast amounts of electrical equipment for the lines and substations, with an unadorned conference room and a few small offices thrown in – still fits that ho-hum description.

But something has changed on the outside. The gable end that faces the roadway has become a canvas, of sorts, for a colorful, full-length mural painted this summer by Woodbury artist Ethan Fielder. The

mural depicts Vermont's countryside in all its glorious seasons, with images of hills and lakes, steeples and barns, renewable energy installations (wind turbines on a distant hilltop, a field with solar panels), and winding country roads dotted with power poles and the

*"It tells the story of our work, and the seasonal transitions. I think it will be kind of uplifting, when our people are working long, cold hours in the wintertime, to provide a reminder that, just over the horizon, the summer is coming."*

Dan Weston

wires that sag gracefully between them. WEC's red PistenBully – a multipurpose off-road track vehicle – navigates through a snowy field in winter, leaving its parallel tread marks behind it; the curved blades of a derrick-driven steel drill bore into the brown earth, making a hole where a new pole will be set.

Foremost in the scene is the large figure of a line worker, with helmet and reflector vest, leaning from a lift bucket high in the air with tools in hand, servicing the electric-distribution system that WEC's rural members rely on.



Woodbury artist Ethan Fielder (left) says he hates seeing a blank wall. With financial contributions from allies in the local energy industry, WEC was able to hire Ethan to transform its warehouse wall on Fassett Road. Why don't you drive in and take a look?

In all its detail and diversity, the mural announces to all who see it: "Here is the work we do. Here, in rural Vermont, is where we do it. And this is our home."

"The picture is meant to look like the landscape that we serve, the vastness of it, and that our crews are out there day and night," says WEC General Manager Patty Richards, who, like most of the office staff (and some of the Operations staff, as well), works out of the administration building in the village a mile away. "You drive up there and see that

mural and, wow, it jumps out at you! It's a really nice way to show our Co-op employees how much we value and care about the work they do. The mural celebrates and embraces our employees' work and it's there to remind them every day that what they do is essential to how we live, and that it's an integral part of our beautiful Vermont landscape."

WEC's Engineering & Operations Director Dan Weston gets a fresh look at the mural first thing every morning when he drives over from

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**Washington Electric Cooperative**  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

**Inside**

**It's all happening in Corinth.** WEC's October 5 Community Meeting will be held in the town hall, and all members are encouraged to participate. Information and dinner reservation on page 8.

**WEC will soon be issuing capital credit distributions to many Co-op members.** You'll find information about the 2016 Equity Distribution Plan, and the names of former members who qualify for benefits if contact can be made, on page 4

**A new face behind the counter, a new voice on the phone.** Meet Gordon Matheson, a great addition to WEC's Members Services team, on page 3.

**Conquering siloxane,** a pervasive compound that has affected performance at WEC's generating station in Coventry. WEC has received permits to retool the operation and improve production. Page 6.

*The mural at WEC's garage and warehouse was a big undertaking for local artist Ethan Fielder. The page 1 story continues, with additional photos, on page 7.*

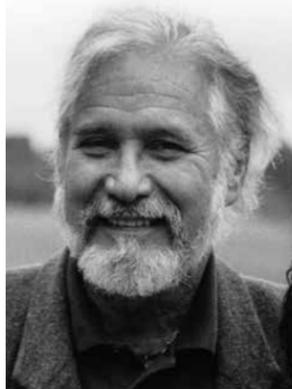
**President's Message**

# On Net Metering, Rates, And the Next Generation

## Net Meterers, Note: New PSB Rules Affect Every Project

By Barry Bernstein

The days are getting shorter, the nights longer, and the leaves are taking on color, but what a beautiful summer we have had. Yes, we could have used more rain and a few less-humid days, but having just come back from a 10-day trip to the Midwest I can attest that we are very, very lucky compared to other parts of the country. Most of the U.S., including the Northeast, has experienced extreme heat and draught.



July and August brought some severe storm damage to the WEC

territory, taking down lines and poles and cutting power to members, often on weekends. Trees from outside our right-of-way fell on the power lines and in some areas snapped poles. We had several weekend storms that not only required WEC staff to work, but we also had to reach out for help from neighboring utilities

.Heartfelt thanks to all the line workers, right-of-way contract crews who spent many hours clearing downed trees and debris, and WEC staff for their diligence and tireless efforts.

I know it was also difficult for many of

our members who were without power for periods during those weekends, so thank you for your patience and understanding. Mother Nature does have the ultimate last word.

### Net Metering

The Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) has issued its final order on net metering. The Board's order noted that the existing rules provided "powerful economic incentives to participate" in net metering. The PSB also noted that the "current pace of net metering programs needs to be moderated so as to be sustainable in the long term and to mitigate associated rate impacts." The Board's new rule is designed to 1) reduce cost to ratepayers; 2) moderate the pace of development to a rate that is more sustainable; and 3) reduce environmental impacts. We will create a new program to comply with the PSB's new rules, and this program will go into effect January 1, 2017.

### NRECA

Our General Manager, Patty Richards and I attended the National Rural Electric Coop Association (NRECA) regional meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, shortly after Labor Day. The meeting attracted almost 1,000 people representing co-ops from Regions 1 and 4 – as far south as the North Carolina, west to Indiana, and

*One very invigorating workshop at the NRECA regional meeting addressed the issue of how co-ops relate to the new generation of Millennials and Gen X members who are joining our co-ops both as staff and as members.*

north to Maine. NRECA, which represents nearly 1,000 electric and phone cooperatives, uses these regional meetings as part of its process for adopting policies and resolutions that give guidance and direction to its efforts to influence Congress and for working collaboratively with other organizations throughout the U.S. Although WEC does not always agree with some of the final resolutions passed at the NRECA's annual meeting, which that takes place each February, it does provide us with a voice nationally on

many issues facing electric co-ops.

At the regional meeting, WEC suggested changes to resolutions regarding distributed generation, to remind our NRECA staff that co-ops are consumer-centric and we work to support distributed generation and technologies that help control the use of electricity. Our changes were approved in both regions 1 and 4, and will now continue on to the next regional meeting before being voted on by all co-ops in February.

One very invigorating workshop Patty and I attended addressed the issue of how co-ops relate to the new generation of Millennials and Gen X members who are joining our co-ops both as staff and as members. It focused on how folks born in the mid-1940s and earlier, the Baby Boomers that followed them, and these younger generations communicate, and how they approach life, work, and problem-solving. In some ways the generations are quite different, but in others they are similar. The key is to understand those differences.

We seek to continually evolve and improve our services. That often calls for different ways of looking at what we do and how we do it. The Millennials and generations to follow will help us reach and aspire to new ways of serving our members and improving the services we provide. Transitions are inevitable, and always interesting.

Have a great fall, everyone.

## Co-op Currents

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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Dawn Johnson, at 224-2332.

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# WEC's New Member Services Representative

*A Sociable Fellow for a Job Calling for People Skills*

**G**ordon Matheson, Washington Electric Cooperative's newest member services representative (MSR), is a guy with an attitude. But his is the good kind.

What you want in an MSR is someone who's friendly, who sincerely wants to help people whether it's with a simple transaction like paying their power bill or responding to a complaint or concern, who is willing to shoulder responsibilities to work through to the end of a problem, and who likes learning new things to expand his proficiency.

This describes Gordon to a T. And though it should describe anyone in a service position with a company or organization, these traits are even more important at an electric co-op. That's because: 1) the members who call or come in are the owners of the company and should be accorded the appropriate respect; and 2) WEC is in the business of providing their electricity, which in the modern world is right up there near food and shelter as a basic need. When electric service is interrupted callers might be anxious or in difficult circumstances, and they need and deserve every bit of understanding and information that a member services rep can provide.

MSRs represent the Co-op, so hiring for these positions is important.

"We liked Gordon right away when he inquired about the job

and came for an interview," says WEC Member Services Supervisor Susan Golden. "He's outgoing and courteous, and he's bright and has a good background in customer service. He's been a great fit for us in our group here at the Co-op."

At 27, Gordon Matheson is a local fellow who grew up mostly in Riverton, graduated from U-32 High School in 2007, and became a father just over a year ago. He and his wife, Desiree, celebrated Mila's first birthday, on August 31, by moving into a home they had purchased in Northfield, so it's been an exciting time of transition and growth for the young family, with Gordon having been hired at WEC just this past April. Gordon took Dawn Johnson's prominent spot, front and center at the member services counter, where he is the first to greet people arriving at WEC's office building in East Montpelier. (Dawn was tapped to succeed Debbie Brown, who retired in March as WEC's Administrative Assistant.)

Gordon came to Washington Electric



*Gordon Matheson has joined the Co-op's Member Services team in East Montpelier. A great addition to the staff, this central Vermont native son has been on the job since April.*

after five years at the Comfort Inn and Suites, in Berlin. During his first two years there he worked at the front desk, but he also rose at 2 a.m. on snowy mornings to plow office driveways and parking lots for his employer, who owned several other properties in the area. Reflecting his personable approach, he says that much of what he enjoyed about the hotel job was the relationships he developed with customers, particularly "regulars" staying at the Comfort Inn on business

or tourism expeditions.

"It's cool, the bonds you build with certain people by knowing their habits, and what coffee they like, and whether they want extra blankets in their rooms," he says.

Gordon sees the same kind of thing happening at WEC. "Like Elaine (Gonier, also a WEC member services rep) has her regulars," he says, "who go right up to her when they come in the building."

In 2013, Gordon was promoted to the managerial position at the hotel desk, and in that capacity he worked closely with the general manager. "It gave me experience handling crises," he says, "and that can apply to this position with Washington Electric." Except that in the private commercial sector, such as a hotel, he adds, you sometimes have to play your cards close to your chest. "Here [at WEC] we share all the information we have to assist people, and do our best to explain all the options people have. That's awesome."

That openness, and eagerness to assist people in difficult situations,

comes into play in a responsibility Gordon has taken on for the Co-op, making the late-afternoon calls to members who have fallen behind on their electric bills to the point that they're at risk of disconnection.

"Those are tough conversations to have," he says. "The main thing is for us to work with people, to try to help them avoid disconnection. It can be an issue of how far we can go in extending a payment schedule."

Other life experiences important to Gordon include the nine months he and Desiree spent in Oregon, which is her home state. He attended a community

college in the Portland area. Living in Oregon "was a culture shock," he admits. "But I got to see wild horses in the central part of the state, and tumble weeds and Indian reservations. It took me out of my comfort zone."

A self-described sports fanatic, Gordon played football and lacrosse in high school, then played a year with the Vermont Ravens, a semi-pro, or "club" football team in central Vermont. He has also coached junior high and youth teams in the area. Since coming to WEC he's taken up running.

"Patty got me into it," he says, referring to WEC's general manager, Patty Richards. "It's fun seeing someone so passionate about it. We ran the 5-K Corporate Cup," held in Montpelier last May.

Gordon's cousin, Scott Matheson, is a WEC apprentice line worker.

"He had nothing but good things to say about the Co-op," says Gordon. But with his background in customer service, Gordon decided the MSR job, which had become available, was a better fit. It also provides a more predictable schedule, which, he says, allows him to be fully a partner with Desiree – a manager at Positive Pie in Montpelier – in parenting Mila.

"I want to have a real relationship with my little girl," he adds, "so that when I go home she's really glad to see me."

Please join WEC's staff in welcoming Gordon, WEC's newest Member Services Representative, to the Co-op team. 

## A Reminder: Vermont Now Recycles Batteries, and WEC Will Gladly Take Yours Off Your Hands!

In 2014, Vermont was the first state to pass legislation requiring battery manufacturers to receive and recycle their used batteries. The state now provides many official drop-off locations for used batteries, but if it's easier for you to stop by the Co-op's home in East Montpelier we'd be glad to receive them and take it from there. The most important thing is to keep them out of the landfill!

The battery-recycling law applies to most non-rechargeable batteries. Bring yours by any time.



## WEC's 2016 Equity Distribution Plan

# Co-op Seeks Former Members For Capital Credit Refunds

Washington Electric Cooperative is preparing to issue capital credit refunds to current and former members, as authorized by WEC's Board of Directors. Under the 2016 Equity Distribution Plan, capital credits will be returned to eligible members for years 1993, 1994, 2013, and 2015. While safeguarding the Co-op's financial stability, the Board of Directors has targeted a total amount of approximately \$460,000 for distribution in 2016, which is \$110,000 greater than the amount allocated for this purpose in 2015.

Capital credits are allocated to Co-op members (customers) for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. Capital credits are a way of dividing those surplus revenues – called margins – among the member-owners. The amount of a member's allocation is based on the size of the Co-op's margins in the year(s) in question, and how much electricity revenue was received from each member that year. Each Co-op member has a capital credit account in his/her name, which is a bookkeeping entry managed on an annual basis by the Cooperative.

WEC's practice has been to divide its capital credit distributions between FIFO (first in, first out) and LIFO (last in, first out) plans; the former is an approach that pays earlier (or "first") members, and the latter term (LIFO) applies to plans that pay the most recent (or "last") members. FIFO distribution plans reach back to pay off historical capital credit accounts. Since WEC initiated capital credit distributions in 1998 it has retired all allocations from 1939 through 1992, plus a portion of the credits members earned in 1993. LIFO distribution plans pay the most recent allocations, a way of providing the benefits of belonging to a cooperative to current or very recent members.

To qualify for a refund, former Co-op members must have a minimum of \$20 coming to them from their capital credit accounts, and must have submitted a properly executed authorization form to the Co-op by October 7, 2016. Current members who are eligible for refunds will receive their refund as a credit on their electric bill, regardless of the amount.

Alternatively, members, both current and former, can choose to contribute their 2015 capital credit refunds to the Community Fund administered by Washington Electric Cooperative. More than 1,300 people have taken the opportunity to do so – many on a permanent, recurring basis – and more are always welcome. Funds contributed by members in 2016 will be combined with any remaining, unspent monies in the Fund. The Fund makes financial contributions to qualifying community causes, per WEC Policy 6. A year-end report on 2016 Community Fund activities will be published in *Co-op Currents* in an early issue in 2017.

All individual retirements will be reduced by any uncollectible or delinquent amount(s) owed to the Cooperative, as permitted by the WEC Bylaws. No early retirements will be made to the estates of deceased members.

Earlier this summer WEC sent out Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible former members, using the person's last-known address. Listed below are the names of people or accounts whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. **WEC is asking friends, acquaintances, and relatives of the people listed here to contact those potential recipients or their rightful heirs, and have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly, at 802-223-5245 or toll-free at 1-800-932-5245.**

WEC will issue this year's capital credit refunds in November 2015.

Aaron, Marlis  
Abbiati, Georgian  
Adams, Steven  
Ahearn, Donald  
Aiken, Kenneth  
Albarelli, Joseph  
Albertson, Stephen  
Aldrich, Georgia  
Alexander, Joan  
Alexander, Scott & Donna  
Alfano, Salvator  
Allen, Charlott  
American Tel & Tel Co,  
Amwest Surety Ins. Co,  
Anderson, Mark  
Anderson, Roland  
Andrews, Kathleen  
Andrus, George  
Argent, Parker  
Arndt, Walter  
Ashe, William  
Ather, Joanne  
Atwood, Stanley  
Atwood, Renee  
Audette, James  
Ausfeld, Thomas  
Austin, Deborah  
Avery, Anthony  
Avery, Brian  
Ayer, Patrick  
Badeau, Cynthia  
Baginski, Dana  
Bair Estate, Samuel &  
Pauline  
Baker, Joseph  
Baker, Kevin  
Baker, Gail  
Baldwin, Dave  
Baldwin Estate, Lorraine  
Bales, David  
Ball, Diane  
Ball, Nancy  
Bankes, Tina  
Barberi, Joy  
Barcomb, W Kent  
Barfield, Coy  
Barker, Jeanette  
Barker, Winston  
Barnaby, Terri  
Barnard, Craig  
Barnett, Dorothy  
Barnett, Susan  
Barnocky, May  
Barral, Robert  
Bash, John  
Bates, Bess  
Baumgardner & Noyes,  
Earl & Karen  
Bean, Kenneth  
Beardsley, John  
Beardsworth, Rhonda

Beck, Florence  
Beckler, Minnie  
Bedle, Julia  
Beede, Penny  
Beier, Deborah  
Belanger, Mike  
Belcher, Alden  
Belisle, Sandra  
Bellavance, David  
Belval, Martin  
Benedini, Betty  
Bennett, Patrick  
Benoit, Lori  
Bent, Robert  
Bergeron, Laurie  
Bernier, Judy  
Berridge, Peter  
Berry, Alan  
Betit, Michael  
Betts, Andrew  
Betts, Peter  
Betz, Nancy  
Bielecki, Mark  
Biggar, Margarete  
Bilbrey, Christin  
Billings, John  
Binder, Frank  
Birutta, Gale  
Bishko, James  
Blair, Richard  
Blair, Duane  
Blair, Gregory  
Blakslee Sp, Ralph  
Blanchard, Walter  
Blau, William  
Blay, Donna  
Blow, Paul  
Boadway, Linda  
Bobar, Otis  
Boisvert, Robert  
Bolin, Oscar  
Bolles, Jason  
Bolton, William  
Booth, Gordon  
Bordonaro, Patricia  
Bouldreault, Sean  
Boutin, Sandra  
Bowen, Roscoe  
Bowin, William  
Bowley, Barbara  
Braman, Daniel  
Braunlich, William  
Brennan, Marty  
Bresett, Jonie  
Brey Mayer, Geraldine  
Bricket (Estate), Vera  
Brickett, Wilmoth  
Brigham, Marshall  
Broad, Martha  
Brock, Bernard  
Brolin, Herbert  
Brolin, Ruth  
Bronson, Robert  
Brooks, Virgil  
Brosnahan, Kristen  
Brown, James  
Brown Jr, Leticia

Brown, Margaret  
Brown, H Webb  
Bruleigh, Kendall  
Bryant & Dailey,  
Buck, Stephanie  
Budzyn, Frederic  
Burdett, Jerome  
Burgielwicz, Seila  
(Nelson Olmstead)  
Burke, Francis  
Burke, Peter  
Burnell, Robert  
Burnham, Ellen  
Burns, Marjorie  
Burrington, Randy  
Bushey, Ralph  
Buska, Donald  
Butler, Francis  
Buttitta, Mary  
Buxton, William  
Cabral, Debra  
Cadorette, Dorothy  
Cady, Mary  
Cahill, Robin  
Calliope, Tami  
Camara, Albert  
Cameron, Catherine  
Cameron, William  
Camire, Norman  
Campbell, Machelle  
Campbell, Maureen  
Canas, Richard  
Cano, Victor  
Cano Estate, Antoinet  
Caplan, Karen  
Capone, Frank  
Carbo, Kathy  
Carignan, James  
Carleton, Helen  
Carpenter, Eric  
Carpenter, Paul  
Carr, Brenda  
Carrig, Leslie  
Cassidy, Janice  
Catlin, G Peter  
Cavalier, Marie  
Century 21,  
Ceplikas (Deceased), Alison  
Ceppetelli, Ronald &  
John Severance  
Ceppetelli, Ronald &  
Steve Severance  
Chaffee, Jean  
Chaffee, Michael  
Chafin, Brian  
Chalmers, Wayne  
Chamberlin, Aldora  
Chamberlin, Debbie (Norton)  
Chamberlin, Jay  
Champany, Sydney  
Chapin, Dorothy  
Chartier, Theodore  
Chartoff, Marion  
Chase, Candis  
Chase, Chris  
Choen, David & Gertrude  
Cholewa, Raymond

Clancy, David  
Clark, Daniel  
Clark, Danny  
Clark, Harry  
Clark, Peter  
Clark-Booth, Kimberly  
Clearwaters, Duffy  
Cleland, William  
Clifton, Ernest  
Cloutier, Michael  
Codling-Terhune, Sarah  
Coffey, George  
Coffin, Barry  
Cofrin, Tabor  
Colbeth Estate, Bernard  
Colburn, Judith  
Cold Creek Hunting Club,  
Cole, Virginia  
Collins, Donald  
Collins Estate, Norbert  
Colnes, Andrea  
Colomb, Edward  
Coltey, George  
Comstock, Allen  
Conard, Waller  
Connolly, Dorothy  
Converse, Joseph  
Conway, Katherine  
Cook, Christopher C  
Cooper, Jon  
Copeland, Robert  
Corbitt, Michael  
Cormier, Raymond  
Corron, Laurie  
Cosker Estate, Robert  
Coughlin, David  
Coulter, Kathryn  
Coutant, Florence  
Coutu, Raymond  
Couture, Laurent  
Couture, Matthew  
Covey, Merle  
Coxon, Cynthia  
Craw, Robert  
Crawford, Ian  
Crawford, John  
Creighton, Thomas  
Creps, Wenda  
Crisante, James  
Crosby, Jeanie  
Crossett, Mary  
Crouse, David  
Crowley, Sally  
Crown, Deborah  
Crowther, Irene  
Cullen, Joan  
Culver, William  
Curley, Bernard  
Currier, Raymond  
Currier, Robert  
Czajkowski, Frances  
Dahlone, Arlen  
Dalmer, Brian  
Darling Estate, Gary  
Davidson, Nick  
Davies, Dave

Davis, Kathryn  
Davis, Lloyd  
Davis, Lorena  
Davulis, James  
Deaquair, Dwight  
Defelice, Frank  
Deforge, Kathleen  
Defranceaux, Carter  
Delaney, George  
Delia, Muriel  
Delisle, Maurice  
Demers, Karen  
Demingware, Cora  
Depalo, Caroline  
Derby, Diane  
Desmeules, Mark  
Deth, Michelle  
Dexter, Tammy  
Dexter Estate, Bernita  
Deyo, Donald  
Dickinson, C  
Diebold, James  
Dilts, William  
Dinsdale, Janice  
Doane, Stanley  
Dodge, Albert  
Dolan, Gladys  
Dolinsky, Ann  
Doody, George  
Dorr, Cynthia  
Doubleday, Elsa  
Dougherty, Mary Ros  
Douglas, Michael  
Dowd, Blanche  
Doyle, Betty  
Doyle, John  
Doyle, Virginia  
Dresser, James  
Drew, Frederic  
Drew, L Leonard  
Drinkwater, Gene  
Driscoll, Peter  
Driscoll, John  
Drury, John  
Dubois, Betty  
Dubuque, Robert  
Duchaine, Morris  
Ducharme, Susan  
Dufresne, Robert  
Duggan, Rita  
Dukette, Rose  
Dunbar, Bernard  
Dunbar, Pamela  
Duncklee, Norman  
Dunn, Monique  
Dunn Estate, Jane  
Dupont, Roxann  
Duprey, William  
Durocher, Mitch  
Dutcher, Marguerite  
Dwinell, Joanna  
Dworkin, David  
Earth Construction Inc,  
Eastman, David  
Eastman, Shirley  
Edson, Theresa  
Eldred, Allan

Eldridge, Laura  
Elkin, Milton  
Ellingson, Barbara  
Emerson, Russell  
Engborg, Evelyn  
Eniti, Anita  
Ennis Estate, Everett  
Entriken Estate, Dorlores  
Entriken, Philip  
Estes, Brian  
Fadden, Linda  
Fagant, Carol  
Fairbrother, Lawrence  
Farnsworth, Gary  
Farrington, Charles  
Fazio, Joseph  
Fenner, Ernest  
Ferguson, Floyd  
Ferland, David  
Ferno, Herbert  
Finley, James  
Fishbach, Michael  
Fisher, Carleton (Rev)  
Fisher, Robert  
Fisher, Stephen  
Fisk, Stephen  
Fitch, Judy  
Flanders, Arlene  
Flinn, Edwin  
Flint, Harry  
Foley, Nola  
Foote, Peter  
Fortin, Lawrence  
Fortman, Frederic  
Foster Estate, Kenneth  
Foster, Sr, James &  
Gertrude  
Francis, Lori  
Frank, Elizabeth  
Frappier, Larry  
Freeman, Bill  
Freeman, Ronnie  
French, Bert  
French, Stella  
French, Thomas  
French, Beverly  
Friedman, Penni  
Fullam, Everett  
Gable, James  
Gadapee, Edward  
Gagne, Michael  
Gagnon, George  
Gahagen, Jacqueline  
Gallagher, Ruth  
Garcia, Florenti  
Gardner, Ross  
Garneau, Traci  
Garone, Francis  
Garron, Edmund  
Garron, Edmund &  
Alan Quirk  
Gates, Philip  
Gauthier, Linda  
Gazaway, Jr, David  
Gazaway, Sr, David  
Geiger, Carolyn  
Geiger, Kevin

Gerhart, Theresa  
Giantonio, Patrick  
Gilbert, Louise  
Giles, Scott  
Gillfether, Shirley  
Gillander, Mae  
Gillespie, Robert  
Gilman, Gary  
Gimble, Josephine  
Girardi, Thomas  
Giunta, Peter & Dorothy  
Glidden, Benjamin  
Glines, Kermit  
Gloria's, Salon Of Beauty  
Goddard, Norman  
Goffrey, Brian & Annette  
Goldberg, Gary  
Gomes, Jerry  
Gonyaw, Dean  
Gonyaw, Myrtle  
Goodenough, Beverly  
Goodrich, David  
Goodrich, Deanna  
Goodrich, Donna  
Gorchinski, Edward  
Gordon, Alexis  
Gordon, Susan  
Goslant, Ruby  
Gosselin, Jacqueli  
Gottfried, Leslie  
Gould, Jeffrey  
Gove, Robert  
Govoni, Patricia  
Grab, Robert  
Grady, Jeremia  
Gravel, Edward  
Gray, Bernard  
Gray, James  
Green Mtn Chocolate,  
Greenan, Eileen  
Greenberg, Leo  
Greenslit, Darcy  
Gregoire, Glenn  
Grier, Paul  
Griffin, Bridget  
Griffin, Valda  
Grimm, Marianne  
Grossman, Henry  
Grossman, Sallie  
Gte Vermont,  
Guadagnoli, Donald  
Guarcello, Giovanni  
Guhlette, Robert  
Gumbrell, George  
Guy, Stuart  
Hackmann, Jeff  
Haggett, Phoebe  
Haggett, Beatrice  
Hagopian, G  
Haile, Dennis  
Hale, James  
Halpin, Robert  
Hamelin, Charles  
Hamilton Estate, Jean  
Hamlett, Teresa  
Hance, Borden  
Haney, Shirley



Hanks, May	Jones, Allison	Lori, Michael	Murac, Robert	Pryce, Steve	Slater, Jaciline	Upham, Gregory
Hanley, Robert	Jones, Corey	Loring, William	Murphy, Harold	Pulsifer, Elizabeth	Slayton, Ina	Vail, Braedon
Hansen, David	Jones, David	Love, Charles	Murphy, James	Purcell, Timothy	Slopnick, Patricia	Vail, Edith
Hansen, Winifred	Jones, Henry	Lovelette, Lisa	Murphy, George	Pushee, Dale	Smalheiser, David	Valler, Amy
Hanson, Lisa	Jones, Robert	Lovering, William	Murray, Nancy	Pyle, Nekol	Smith, Barbara	Van Eerde, John
Hanzimanolis, Margaret	Jones, Warren	Lowell, Kathleen	Murray, Scott	Pyrik, Walter	Smith, Barry	Vangordon, David & Brenda
Hardy, Viola	Jones, William	Lowell, Neil	Myers, Lee	Pytte, Anders	Smith, Bonnie	Vasquez, Claire
Harrigan, Edward	Jose, John	Lowell, Carol	Myers, Odera	Quagliano, John	Smith, David	Veech, Roberta
Harrington, Dean	Joslyn, Bruce	Lowney, Paul	Nadeau, Philip	Racine, Daniel	Smith, George	Vereline, Michael
Harrington, John	Joyal, Robert	Luce, Donald	Narma, Silvia	Randall, James	Smith, Kenneth	Vermette, Joanne
Harris, Fredrick	Jurkiewicz, Helene	Lumbra, Donald	Nasse, Lyndy	Randall, Russell	Smith, Lynn	Vermette, John
Harris, Susan	Justice, Marjorie	Lund, Gail	Neader, Rhoda	Rapp, Dorrie	Smith, Peter	Vermette, Thomas & Angela
Harris, Steve	Kachadoorian, Maria	Lyford, Nelson	Neale, Michael	Rashid, Sikander	Smith, Philip	Victory, Carole
Hart, John R & Karen L	Karr, Lawrence	Lyman, Rodney	Neubauer, Karl	Rathmann, Heinz	Smith, Sandra	Vietje, Brad
Hart, Lillian	Katz, John	Lyn, Vincent	Nevens, Virginia	Rawson, Mary	Smith, William	Vigeant, Michael
Hart, Mark	Kauczka, Sylvester	Lynch, Douglas	New England Tele Co,	Raynor, Raymond	Smith, Anthony	Vitti, Marion
Hart, John	Kay, James	Lynn, John	Newman, Marilyn	Reagan, Robert	Smith, Trent	Volpini, Frank
Hart, Amy	Kazmarski, Kelli	Lyons, David	Newman, Ric	Reed, Barbara	Smith, Stuart	Vt Institute, Self
Hartman, Jeffrey	Keeffe, Carolyn	Lyons, Robert	Newton, Grant	Reed, William	Smith, Wayne	Vt Sports Apparel,
Hastings, Susan	Keel, Jimmie	MacDonald, Jeffrey	Nichols, Ginger	Reese, Brenda	Smykal, Joyce	Wachtel, Deborah
Hatch, Dale	Keene, Michael	Macie, Ronald	Nichols Trust,	Regan, Kathleen	Snider, Kenneth	Wakefield, H Paul
Hatch, Margaret	Keene, James	Mack, Roger	Noble, Gregory	Reid, William	Snyder, Marvin	Walbridge, Frances
Hatch, Marguerite	Keith, Gail	Mackenzie, Jane	Noel, Lorenzo	Reinaudette, Sheila	Snyder, William	Walbridge, Gerald
Hatch, Ralph	Keith, David	Magoon, Edgar	Norfolk Holding, Corp	Resnik, Benjamin	Solomon, Terry	Wall, Kevin
Hathaway, Lynn	Kelley, Elizabeth	Magoon, Laurie/ Steve	Northrup, Forrest	Resource Of Comm Living,	Somers, Steven	Walsh, Deborah & Arnold M
Haupt, Karen	Kelly, Colleen	Appleton	Northrup, Jack	Rice, Joseph	Sorensen, Mary	Walton, William
Hawkes, Glenn	Kelly, Kevin	Magoon, Robert	Noyes, Catrina	Richards, Jeffrey	Soshnick, Jeffrey	Ward, Clayton
Hawkins, Wanda	Kelton, Mary Ellen	Mahon, Patricia	Nunn-Hudson, Martin	Richardson, Elizabeth	Sothard, Gustave	Ward, Gary
Hawley, Melvill	c/o Anne Kelton	Males, Amanda	Nye, Dorothea	Richardson, Joseph	Spaulding, Ruth	Ward, Marion
Hayes, Kathleen	Kenefick, Marie	Mallary, R	O'Brien, Sandra	Richardson, William	Spear, Neil	Wasow, Mona
Haynes, Larry	Kent, Lisa	Manavola, Joseph	Oliver, Carol	Ricker, William	Spelman, Steve	Watker, Wayne
Hayslett, Elizabeth	Keyser, F Ray	Manges, Darcy	Oliver, Sheila	Riddel, Douglas	Spencer, Carolyn	Watkins, Timothy
Hazelton, Peter	Kilian, Jon	Mangino, Albert	Olsen, Harley	Rider, John	Spencer, Lawrence	Watson, Christop
Heald, Lester	Kimball, Allen	Mangum, Thomas	Olsen, Kathy	Riley, Thomas	Spencer, Fred	Watts, Barbara
Healey, Robert	Kimball, Brian	Manley, June	O'Meara, Kelly	Ripley, Beverly	Spooner, Howard	Webster, Thomas
Heath, Donald	Kinder, Pamela	Manly, Susan	O'Neill, Myriam	Robertson, Ella	Spooner Estate, Forrest	Weiss, Stephen
Heath Estate, Richard	Kindestin, William	Manning, Kelly	Orchino, Sherri	Robertson, Walter	Squires, Jeffrey	Weiss, Daniel
Heaton, K	King, Janet	Marcoux, Lisa	Ordway, Michael	Robinson, Charlotte	St Cyr, Marcia	Welch, Patrick
Hebebrand, William	King, Tamara	Mark, Marion	Ormsby, Deborah	Robinson, Marilyn	St Germain, Norman	Welch, Raymond
Hebert, Ernest	Kirkpatrick, Scott	Marone, William	Orner, Frank	Rode, Mary	St Germain, Victor	Welch, Robert
Heffernan, Michael	Kitchen, Lee	Marsh, Christine	Ortiz, Melanie	Roemer, Lorrie	Stanton, Robert	Welch, Stanley
Helburn, Margare	Kjier, Christine	Marsh, Douglas	Otten, Richard	Rogers, Alona	Staples, Charlott	Weller, Dwight
Helgesen, Bernice	Klee, Karen	Marsh, Marylou	Ouellette, Arthur	Rogers, Fay Ann &	Staples, David	Wentworth, Roderick
Hemenway, Nancy	Knapp, Eric	Marshall, Jill	Overstrom, Brenda	Edward Sayers Jr	Stark, Ivy	Westney, Susie
Henderson, Gary	Knapp, Leo	Martin, Edward	Owens, Wade	Rogers, Mark	Starr Estate, William	Westover, Dean
Henes, Richard	Knowles, Florence	Martin, Robert	Pacetti, Edmund	Rogers, Sidney	Steed, Cynthia	Whalen, Thomas
Henning, Robert	Knowlton, Deborah	Martin, Tina	Pacini, Alberta	Roggensack, John	Steere, Sandra	Whalen, Mary
Henrikson, Fred	Knox, Lora	Martin Estate, Mary	Page, Carwin	Rollins, Philip	Stein, Nancy	Wheatley, Brian
Henrikson Rev Trust,	Kohl, Arlene	Masi, Victor	Page, Howard	Rondelli, Robert	Stender, Angeline	Wheeler, Gerald
Fred & Gary	Kokoszka, Lawrence	Mason, Carroll	Paige, June	Ronner, Arthur	Stephens, Alan	Wheeler, Herbert
Henry, Bernard	Kramer, Donald	Mason, Kelly	Palisoul, Richard	Rossi, Douglas	Stetson, Harvey	Wheeler, Angela
Henry, Tom	Krause Jr Estate, John	Maxfield, Terry	Palmer, Scott	Rossi, Mark	Stevens, Craig	Wheeler Estate, Helen
Herman, Sylvia	Kreisz, Shirley	Mayer, Frances	Papineau, Fonda	Rossignol, Boyd	Stiles, Lewis	Wheeler Estate, Leona
Herrick, James	Kruger, Laura	Mayhew, Jane	Paquette, Todd	Rossiter, Donna	Stillwell, Ella	Whitaker, Jody
Herriott, Cynthia	Kuglics, Wendy	Mayhew, Wanda	Paquette, Jeffrey	Rouelle, Anna	Stoekel, Ronald	Whitcomb, Lawrence
Herzig, Heather	Labadie, Patricia	Mazuroski, Edward	Paquin, Heather	Rouelle Estate, Alfred	Stone, Gayle	White, Paul
Hetzler, Gregory	Labrie, Hughes	McBride, Christin	Parauka, Marion	Rousse, Norbert	Stone, Gregory	White, Sherry
Hierons, Robert	Lacasse, Robert	McCarthy, Joseph	Parent, Mario	Roux, Robert	Stone, Harvey	White, Wayne
Hill, Arthur	Ladd, Gordon	McCracken, Maurice	Parke Estate, Edith O	Roy, Esther	Storto, Joseph	Whiteley, Thomas
Hill, Laura	Lafogg, Bertha	McCullough, Marilyn	Parker, Elizabeth	Roya, Kristy	Straight, Carla	Wiese, Peter
Hill, Gail	Lagassey Estate, Donald	McDanolds, Doris	Parker, Isobel	Ruiz, Constanc	Stratton, Robert	Wight, Donald
Hill, William	Lagerstedt, Robert	McFarland, Stephen	Parker, Michelle	Rummell, Ralph	Strayhorn, Alvin	Wild, David
Hill, Camellia	Lahue, Donald	McGill, Charles	Parker, Lyman	Russell, Alexande	Stridsberg, Joseph	Wild, Hazel
Hiner, James	Lakatos, Peter	McGrath, John	Parrot, Kenneth	Russell, Earl	Strot, Jon	Wilder, Wayne
Hinton, Henry	Lalli, Luciano	McIntosh, Jean	Parry, Arthur	Russell, Thomas	Suarez, Donald	Wilkinson, Dean
Hoblin, Harry	Lamoille Valley Rr,	McKenna, Michael	Parry, Joel	Rutledge, Roy	Sullivan, Robert	Willey, Delene
Hodgdon, Clara	Lamp, Michael	McKenney, Thomas	Paton, Kenneth	Rutledge, Shirley	Sullivan, C Theres	Willey, Douglas
Hoffert, Mary	Lance, John	McKinnon, Cheryl	Paul, Armenthi	Ryan, Erla	Sumner, Sherri	Willey, Margaret
Hoffman, Marion	Landbo, Rod	McLane, Michael	Paul, Harry	Sainsbury, Scott	Sumner, Deborah	Williams, Barry
Holmes, Donna	Landers, Lorraine	McQueen, Raymond	Payne, Douglas	Saldi, Robert	Surviva, Joyal	Williams, David
Holmes, June	Landino, Henry	Meeks, Charles	PC Cellular of Vt,	Sales, Suzanne	Sweeney, Ethel	Williams, Douglas
Holmstrom, Raymond	Lane, Mary	Meiggs, Arthur	Pearson, Quentin	Sallerson, Mary	Sweet, Rheagene	Williams, Gwen
Hood, Lynn	Langone, Robert	Menard, Katherin	Pearson, Robert	Salomaa, Edward	Sweetser, Clyde	Williams, Jeffrey
Hooper, Curtis	Lanphear, Charles	Menard, Robert	Peatman, Philip	Salter, Gary	Symons, Helen	Williams, Steven
Horst, John	Lanphear, Doris	Merchant, Melvyn	Peck, Mark	Sanborn, Raymond	Szulc, Alfred	Williams, Dale
Horton, Marilyn,James/	Lapan, James	Merrill, Arthur	Peckham, William	Sanders, Gregory	Taplin, Roger	Williams, Leslie
Albert Wehe	Laperle, Alan	Merritt, Barry	Peduzzi, Norman	Sangermano, Peter	Targett, Steven	Willis, Kendall
Houghton Estate, Elliot	Lapierre, Margaret	Merritt, Robert	Penn, Rosemary	Santor, Sarah	Taylor, Carlyle	Wilmott, Kathy
Houle, Elizabeth	Laprade, Andre	Merritt Sugarhouse,	Perkins, Edith	Sarquiz, Ronald	Taylor, Christopher	Wilson, Cindy
Houston, Earl	Larcomb, Evelyn	Messer, Richard	Perkins, Timothy	Satink, Jeannie	Taylor, David	Wilson, Edward
Hovey, Cindi	Larivee Estate, Annie	Miller, Lawrence	Perreault, Amanda	Saunders, Monica	Taylor, Donna	Wilson, Richard
Howe, Mandevil	Larkham, Glen	Miller, Robert	Perry, Courtlan	Savidge, Evelyn	Taylor Estate, Frederick	Winter, Ken
Howell, Gail	Larkin, Edwin	Minard, Richard	Perry, Linda	Savioli, Catherine	Tellier, Raymond	Winters, Linda
Howland Estate, Susan	Larow, Gary	Minor, Austin	Persons, D	Sawyer, James	Temple, Christopher	Wintle, Serena
Hoyt, Gordon	Lash, Jonathan	Misiak, Ronald	Persons, Russell	Sawyer Estate, Edward	Tescher, Donald	Wires, John
Hoyt, Samantha	Laundry, Reginald	Missner, Richard	Peterson, Susan	Sayers, Willie	Thayer, George	Wiseman, Warren
Huestis, Thomas	Lauterman, Roy	Molander, Russell	Petra, Charles	Schaw, Kathy	Therrien, David	Witham Estate, Hugh
Hughes, Donna	Lavallee, Lois	Monte, Kenneth	Pettibone, Mary	Schibuk, Norman	Thibeault, Georgette	Wnukoski, Joseph
Hughes, J Norman	Lawrence, Albert	Montgomery, Frank	Phelps, Sheila	Schmitt, John	Thibodeau, Timothy	Wojcik, Walter
Hulbert, Lloyd	Lawrence, Frank	Montpelier Woodworks,	Phillips, Kenneth	Schneider, Eleanor	Thivierge, Roger	Wolf, Guenther
Hull, Marc	Lawrence, Susan	Moody, Michelle	Phillips, Terri	Schumaker, Esther	Thomas, John	Wolfe, Nancie
Hunter, Maggie	Layton, Robert	Mooney, Eleanor	Pierce, Ben	Schwartz, Robert	Thomas, Judson	Wood, Gregory
Hunter, M Kelley	Lebourveau, Danielle	Moore, Helen	Pierce, Linda	Schwarz, Lucille	Thomas, Kathleen	Wood, Linn
Hurt, Charles	Leclerc, Michael	Moore, Mavis	Pierce, Walter	Sclafani, Joseph	Thompson, Jason	Wood, Patricia
Illuzzi, Joseph	Lee, Lisa	Moore, Pearl	Pike, Francis	Scott, Laurette	Thompson, Velvet	Wood, Susan
Infante, Mark	Lefevre, Kevin	Morey, Roger	Pilbin, William	Sefton, Nola	Thorne, Philip	Woodard, Stanley
Isaak, Jacqueline	Leggett, John	Morgan, Melissa	Pinette, Frank	Sense, E	Thorstensen, Thomas	Woodbury, David
Isaak, Lauren	Leibold, Raylene	Morin, Julie	Placa, Antonio	Setien, Cecilia	Thurston, Andrew	Woodbury, Gordon
Isham, Christin	Lemay, Francis	Moroch, Grace	Plante, Renee	Sevigny, Diane	Thurston, Diana	Woodward, Joanne
Izzo, Anthony	Lemay, Juliette	Morris, Shawna	Plante, Kathy	Shangraw, Warren	Thurston, Pamela	Woody's Power Products,
Jackson, Stuart	Leno, Deborah	Morris, Shirley	Plaster, Cheryl	Shanley, Timothy	Thurston, Robert	Works, Greg
Jaeger, Paul	Lenz, Lilli	Morrison, David	Plattner, Helen	Shapiro, Noreen	Tibbetts, Germaine	Wright, Christin
Jamele, Peter	Leonard, Ellen	Morrison, June	Podesta, E	Shatney, Harry	Tibolt, William	Wright, Florence
Janes, Melissa	Leonard, Mark	Morrissey, Jean	Polumbia, Nyna	Shatney, Lori	Tierney, Patricia	Wright, Florence & Wayland
Jarvis, Lucy	Leonard, Milford	Morrissey, Jean	Pond, Chris	Shaughnessy, Mark	Tiffany, Stephanie	Wright, Jeffrey
Jauhola Estate,	Lesnak, Michelle	Morse, Brandi	Poole, Todd	Shaw, John	Tillotson Estate, Shirley	Wright, Nancy
c/o David Morin	Lessig, Robert	Morse, Linda	Pope, Arthur	Shearer, Steven	Tim's Repair,	Young, Edward
Jensvold, Erik,Chris,	Letourneau, John	Morse, Lucille	Pope, Ruth	Sherer, Dana	Toffling, Rose	Young, J Peter
Andrew & Malcom	Levarn, Corinne	Morse, Patricia	Poplawski, David	Sherman, Cindy	Tomaszewicz, Dave	Young, Jackie
Jerome, Sarah	Levesque, Jean	Morway, Luanne	Potter, Melissa	Sherman, Patricia	Tomaszewicz, David A	Young, Lisa
Jerry, Stephen	Lewis, Norton	Moses, Jessie	Potvin, John	Shipman, David	Toohey, Marion & William	Young, Marcia
Jewell, Adelaid	Lewis, Brice	Mosher, Gregory	Powers, Roger	Shor, Betty	Tousignant, Edith	Young, Roland
Johnson, Charles	Lilley, Kim	Moulton, Evelyn	Powers, Wilfred	Shouldice, W	Towle, Bruce	Young, Wayne
Johnson, Christop	Ling, Shelly	Moulton, Carolyn	Precht, Patricia	Shuttle, Donald	Towle, Susan	Zaremski, Thomas
Johnson, Gregory	Livingston Estate, Elizabeth	Moz, Jane	Preston, Brenda	Sicely, Grace	Towne, John	Zdon, Victor
Johnson, Jeffrey	Locke, Norman	Mraz, Barbara	Preston, Carl	Silver, Ruth	Trainor, Joanna	Zeno, Nancy
Johnson, Lanae	Long, Eugene	Mudge, George	Procopio, Walter	Simard, Jane	Trombly, Joanne	Zorn, Dean
Johnson, Pauline	Loomis, Andrew	Muhlhahn, Leslie	Prosser, Robert	Simmons, Scott	Tucker, Diane	
Johnson, Walfred	Lord, Charles	Mulholland, Thomas	Protas, Alan	Sincerbeaux, George	Turner, Elizabeth	
Johnson, Robin	Lord, Marian	Mullen Estate, Jeremiah	Proulx, Annie	Sinon, Joanne	Uhouse, Martha	
Johnston, Kenneth	Lorentzen, Doreen	Munger, Ellen	Provencher, William	Skyview Casino Inc,	Ulmer, Johanna	

# Cure For The ‘Siloxane’ Problem

## WEC Receives Certificate of Public Good for Fixes at Coventry

There’s not much in this world that remains consistent and predictable over long periods of time, and this applies even to the nature of the stuff we throw away. Chemists, for any number of reasons, refine the composition of their companies’ products. Customers buy the product, use it up, and throw it away. A trash-collection service picks it up with the rest of the household garbage, adds it to a mountain of other refuse, and carries it off to the New England Waste Services lined landfill in Coventry, Vermont.

And suddenly, WEC has a problem. That’s because Washington Electric Cooperative harvests the gases produced by the natural decomposition of materials within that landfill, pipes them to an adjacent building, and runs them through a cleansing (“scrubbing”) process to remove impurities. WEC then uses the refined methane gas to fuel five Caterpillar engines that produce about 60 percent of the electric power that Washington Electric Co-op provides to its members in a year.

It’s a neat trick – preventing a potent greenhouse gas from reaching the atmosphere, and using it instead to make renewable energy that reduces our state’s reliance on fossil fuel-generated power.

But changes in the waste stream’s content – not so much the products it contains, but the way they are made – have presented difficulties for the Co-op, affecting production at the generating plant and increasing the costs of maintaining the engines in good operating condition.

However, the difficulties are surmountable, and this is a report about how the Co-op, with the assistance and advice of ever-valuable consultants, has dealt with the issue.

John Murphy is a civil and environmental engineer for Stantec, a global engineering firm with New England headquarters in Boston that serves as WEC’s consultant for the Coventry plant. Murphy explains that there has been a marked increase in siloxane in the waste stream. Siloxane is a chemical compound used in an enormous range of products, from cosmetics to toothpaste to plastics, and even edibles like salad dressing and mayonnaise.

“It’s also used in industrial products like electronic circuit boards and silicon wafers,” says Murphy. Google “siloxane” and you’ll be amazed where it turns up.

Consequently, it also turns up in the Coventry landfill and every other landfill in the U.S. and abroad.

“It’s the Achilles heel of running engines on landfill gas,” Murphy explains. “It comes into the generating station in a gaseous form, but when it’s heated to combustion temperatures it gets converted into a silica. It turns into, essentially, sand. That gets deposited in any part of the combustion equipment

in the engine that gets a gaseous flow: the valves, the cylinders, the combustion heads, the turbo charger. All are subject to deposition of silica. It acts like sandpaper, wearing things down.”

WEC had begun to experience that problem with its five Caterpillar engines; ever more frequently they had to be taken off line, on a rotating basis, for cleaning, maintenance, and repairs. It wasn’t because there had been a sudden burst of siloxane use in U.S. manufacturing; it’s because it can take years for the waste mixture and the gases it produces to evolve.

Siloxane creates a ripple of negative effects. By wearing parts down, it causes the engines to run less efficiently, and that affects the exhaust, which the Co-op must keep within certain parameters to comply with its air quality permit for the Coventry plant.

“The result,” says WEC Operations & Engineering Director Dan Weston, “is that we’d been rebuilding the engines almost twice as often as we needed to before. And when you take an engine offline to rebuild it, you’re reducing the amount of power you’re producing at the plant.”

Yet there’s a fix for this problem,

and with John Murphy’s assistance and advice the WEC Board and staff began exploring it. It’s a technological advance, born of necessity, called the siloxane removal system (SRS). Murphy explained that “it can replace the older treatment system that was sufficient in years past, when siloxanes weren’t as much of a problem. This is a more sophisticated treatment system, and it’s coming into more common use at biogas generating facilities.”

The Board undertook a competitive process of finding and hiring a contractor to make the switch – a fairly costly upgrade of the gas-treatment system that WEC has employed since opening the plant in 2005. Before proceeding with the installation of the SRS system the Co-op needed to amend its Certificate of Public Good (CPG), the permit for operating the plant that is required by the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB).

On March 18, 2016, WEC submitted its petition to the PSB, along with a site plan, pre-filed testimony and exhibits, and list of adjoining landowners – required elements of its application under Section 248 (the state law that subjects energy-related projects to a

review similar to the better-known Act 250, which governs development).

A decision in favor of WEC’s proposal came relatively quickly, with an order on May 26 granting WEC permission to replace its former glycol-based gas-scrubbing system with the SRS; to provide new, taller air-emissions stacks for the five Caterpillar engines (6.4 feet higher than the previous stacks) to address new air quality permit standards; and to install a slightly larger garage door to facilitate entry into the scrubbing room for the new equipment. Very minimal external construction at the building is needed, as the vast majority of the work and installation will be inside

The PSB hit the nail on the head with these findings:

- “The proposed facility upgrades will allow WEC to maximize energy production at the facility. The increased production of energy, capacity, and renewable energy credits expected to occur as a result of the Project will economically benefit WEC, its members, and the State of Vermont.” Also:
- “The Project will reduce air pollution by maximizing the operations of the engines that burn methane emitted from the landfill. When the energy plant is not operational, the collected landfill gas is diverted to a flare. Flaring produces emissions without the beneficial effect of producing energy, so maximizing the use and efficiency of the engines reduces unnecessary air emissions.”

Patty Richards, Washington Electric Co-op’s General Manager, reports that the price tag for the entire project will total around \$1.8 million. Benefitting from increased energy production and lower operations and maintenance costs, the Co-op expects an attractive payback.

“There is plenty of gas coming from the landfill,” said Richards, “so much, in fact, that there are times when gas is being flared, which is a waste of that very useful fuel source for us. With improved engine performance we can use more of the gas and reduce the amount of flaring. The added energy will allow WEC to increase the value of the Coventry plant to WEC’s members.”

Siloxane in the landfill was a problem that gradually affected the plant’s production and increased its operational costs for several years. The new system will protect the environment by producing cleaner air emissions. Important, too, is that WEC’s contract for the Coventry plant extends until 2034, and can be renewed beyond that. That’s 18 more years of more-affordable, more-efficient production of renewable energy for the Co-op and its members.

*“We’d been rebuilding the engines almost twice as often as we needed to before. And when you take an engine offline to rebuild it, you’re reducing the amount of power you’re producing at the plant.”*

Dan Weston

### ASK THE ENERGY COACH

**Q. With winter coming are there energy efficiency incentives and programs geared specifically to helping members invest in cost-effective energy improvements for their homes?**

A. WEC strongly encourages members to contact a local Home Performance with Energy Star (HP w/ ES) contractor. There are 80 such qualified Vermont companies. There are significant incentives available from Efficiency Vermont when a HP w/ES contractor is hired for specific items which qualify for EVT incentives. The 2016 HP w/ES incentives include:

Measure home’s air leakage with blower door test, while ensuring adequate fresh air from mechanical system;	\$500
Reduce air leakage by performing air sealing/insulation	Depending on % change incentive from \$250 - \$500
Insulation	Varies with R value and location
Heat distribution improvement (furnace or boiler system)	\$75
Comprehensive retrofit bonus package (air sealing + insulation)	\$250
Heating system replacement (varies for furnace or boiler)	\$500

Information is available from Efficiency Vermont through its web site ([www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com)), by phone at 888-921-6990, ext. 7803, or by email from the program manager at [twalker@efficiencyvermont.com](mailto:twalker@efficiencyvermont.com). Or contact the Energy Coach @ [energycoach@wec.coop](mailto:energycoach@wec.coop), or call 224.2329

Got a question about energy conservation? “Ask the Energy Coach” (email [energycoach@wec.coop](mailto:energycoach@wec.coop), or call 224-2329) so we can use this space to share the information with your fellow WEC members.



## Mural

continued from page 1

the office building for early-morning meetings with the line crews and other Operations employees, reviewing the day's plans before they load up their trucks and head out into the Co-op's 41-town service territory. He particularly savors the depictions of the changing seasons – the splashes of color for the fall; the dingy mud season, the stark white landscape, mountains, and clouds in winter; and the lush green hills of Vermont's beautiful summer.

"It tells the story of our work, and the seasonal transitions," he says. "I think it will be kind of uplifting, when our people are working long, cold hours in the wintertime, to provide a reminder each morning and afternoon when they drive in that, just over the horizon, the summer is coming."

### Grant funding

The old building was due for a paint job this year. Built in 1973 to replace and improve upon the garage across from WEC's office building that was substantially destroyed by fire the year before, there's never been any reason for it to be glamorous, and it never will be. But like any property, it needs to be maintained.

Since it's home-away-from-home for the line crew and several staff members (Plant Accountant Cathie Vandenberg, Safety & Environmental Coordinator Scott Martino, Mechanic Brad Nutbrown, and System Technicians Mike Gray and Dan Couture), the morning meetings this spring sometimes drifted into the sphere of what, if anything, people would like to see improved along with the paint job. Somehow, the idea of a mural cropped up – nothing elaborate, just something more interesting than a new coat of paint on the old building.

Ethan Fielder was down at the dock at his parents' home on Number Ten Pond in Woodbury one day in July when a boat pulled up. Inside it was Hans Pope-Howe, a lineman at Washington Electric Co-op.

"He said, 'Aren't you the guy who painted the mural at Utton's Automotive (a muffler shop on River Street in Montpelier)?"

Ethan recalled later. Indeed, he was. Ethan, who is 19 years old and commencing his second year this fall at Massachusetts College of Art & Design in Boston, undertook that project when he was still a student in the Pilot program at U-32 High School, which provides alternative pathways to students interested in less-conventional education. The mural, familiar to many central Vermonters, shows a Volkswagen Beetle being worked on by men in welders' outfits. (Ethan has also done some decorative painting at Splash Naturals, a skin

Scenes from the mural. At right, a lineman reaches out to the top of a power pole, with lovely green hills and blue lakes stretching out behind him. Below, a rugged WEC utility truck makes its way across Ethan Fielder's painted landscape.



"Between these three vendors, we got the money we needed," said Dan Weston. "They were great. They care about our crews and they care about our Co-op."

With funding secured, at no greater investment for WEC and its members than it would have taken for basic maintenance (painting the wall green), the project went forward. Ethan met with Patty and Dan, listening to their ideas about scenes the mural should include and the themes it should convey. He created images and refined them with Photoshop, a visual computer program, and went back to them for more input.

"They asked me to put in a church steeple, like the steeple in Peacham, that shows what a Vermont village looks like," Ethan said. "They wanted solar panels and wind turbines to represent renewable energy."

Looking at his mural – still a work in progress as August drew to a close – he continued, "I'm going to add the big track vehicle that's over there, inside the garage. I still need cows, and I already had solar panels but I had to adjust them to face the sunlight."

Ethan set to work on the mural on August 8. With help from his

older brother, Zach, scrambling up and down ladders with a chalk line stretched between them, he blocked out large areas to be covered with base colors, from which the ripples in the landscape, the lakes and ponds nestled in the hillsides, and

the roads, homesteads, power lines, vehicles, and people would emerge. The project was daunting for many reasons: one, the surface – Ethan's cement "canvas" – was big, 100 feet long and 20 feet high at the peak; two, it was interrupted in a dozen places by windows and doors and vents and other obtrusions difficult to incorporate into an artwork; and three, there wasn't much time to do it in! The Utton's Muffler mural, quite a bit smaller (though very detailed) had taken 100 hours. Ethan had three weeks to accomplish the WEC mural before returning to art school in Boston early in September.

"What I'd really like in the future, on

a piece like this, would be six months," he said. "Three months for planning and three months for painting."

Still, he wasn't complaining. The work was intricate, and tiring – scurrying up an aluminum extension ladder, brush in hand, to add a small image or refine one already there, then scurrying back down to step back and gain perspective from a distance; reapplying paint to the brush and thinning it with water, shaking the excess off and then launching himself up the ladder again, over and over for hours every day: the frenetic and yet studious toil of a vigorous, committed – and fortunately, young – man. An artist.

### Outdoor art

Murals are becoming part of the landscape in Vermont. In Jeffersonville, two abandoned, unsightly silos at the former Gates Lumber property gained attention this summer by WCAX-TV, as they were painted by a young woman with vivid, larger-than-life, rural scenes: a farmer, cows, crops, countryside.

"The more people see this kind of art, the more they want it," said Ethan, whose parents were longtime Co-op members when the family lived in Middlesex. "The ball is starting to roll, and I want to continue doing it. It's good, creative work. I hate seeing a blank wall. There's no reason they have to be that way."

In late afternoon in the final days of August, the trucks would return to the WEC warehouse, back into the garage on the long front end of the building, and the line workers would discharge their loads, gab for a while about their day, and prepare to go home. Frequently, as Ethan worked, the door in the wall would open – just below the outsized lineman in the lift bucket in his mural – and a crew member would walk out and head toward his car or truck, parked across the gravel lot from the emerging mural. Often they would turn and regard Ethan's progress, finding newly added elements in the scenes that depict their lifestyle.

They clearly admired and appreciated Ethan Fielder's work. And from what he was able to capture and create on the once-drab and dreary wall of the place they report to every day, it's clear that Ethan appreciated their work, as well.

care-products store in downtown Montpelier.)

Hans described the mural idea at Washington Electric Co-op, and within a day or so Ethan was on the phone to WEC's Patty Richards, offering his services.

"I hadn't heard anything about it when Ethan called, but he sure got me thinking," said Richards.

"We set out to learn what it would cost to paint the side of the building, and Ethan's quote came in higher, which wasn't a surprise. We didn't think it would be appropriate for our Co-op members to pay that extra cost, but if we could get some grant funding to cover the gap we wanted to do it."

It didn't take long to find sources for the additional money, which totaled less than \$2,000.

All of the contributors were companies in the energy field that have close relationships with Washington Electric Co-op. The donors were ARIA Energy, whose technicians operate WEC's electric-generating plant in Coventry, Vermont; WESCO Distribution, Inc., from which the Co-op buys electrical equipment for its power line system; and Twin State Electric, another longtime Washington Electric supplier.

*"We didn't think it would be appropriate for our Co-op members to pay that extra cost, but if we could get some grant funding to cover the gap we wanted to do it."*

Patty Richards

# Cookeville, Here We Come!

## WEC Community Meeting Set For October 5

Twice each year the member/owners of Washington Electric Cooperative have an opportunity to gather in a large group for dinner and an interactive, informative meeting with the executive leaders, senior staff members, and elected directors of their electric co-op.

Or, to put in differently, the leaders of the Co-op have this biannual opportunity to meet with as many WEC members as choose to turn out, to hear what's on their minds and discuss WEC's policies and operational decisions with those to whom they are most responsible – the members, themselves.

One of those times is the formal Annual Membership Meeting, held in May. The other is a much less formal but no less informative "Community Meeting," held in October, not in a centralized location like the Annual Meeting, but in some church basement, or town hall, or perhaps a school cafeteria, in one of the 41 towns within WEC's service territory. It's a way that the Board of Directors created in 2002 for the leadership to engage with local people who may not make the choice, in May, to travel to the Annual Meeting, and would rather gather with their neighbors for a Co-op event. WEC has been holding these community meetings every year since then, and they've become a tradition and an important part of Washington Electric's calendar of events.

Now that time has rolled around again. WEC's next Community Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 5, 2016**. This year's location will be the **Corinth Town Hall**, at 1387 Cookeville Road, in the town of Corinth. (If your mapping service demands a ZIP code, it's 05039.)

The **doors will open at the town hall at 5:30 p.m.**, with dinner served at 6:00. Around 7 p.m., the Co-op's President, Barry Bernstein, and General Manager, Patty Richards, will open up the discussion of the energy- and service-related issues important to the Cooperative and its members.

There is no cost for the dinner, but because our hosts in Cookeville need to make plans, **registrations for the dinner are required**. Members who have not already responded to mailed invitations from the Co-op can use the reservation coupon printed here to reserve a meal and state your menu preference. WEC pays local public-service organizations for their efforts in preparing the meal. This year,

proceeds will benefit the Waits River Valley School eighth-grade class trips, an investment in the education and the future for the school's students.

For anyone attending the meeting but not the dinner, no reservation is needed.

While the location will obviously be most convenient to members from Corinth and nearby towns, WEC's community meetings are open to all members of the Cooperative, and people are encouraged to come.

"We like to hear from everyone about what's on their minds," said General Manager Patty Richards. "But we also have some topics we want to discuss with folks. Two of these are net metering – a subject that impacts all members

and therefore isn't solely important to people who are thinking about installing their own home-generation systems – and the state's renewable energy standard. That's going to affect some of the things we do here at the Co-op. People should know about those, and there may be opportunities for some members to take advantage of them."

Net metering is the statewide program under which residents and businesses have been encouraged, through financial incentives, to install their own small-scale renewable energy generating systems, and provide excess power – beyond what they consume, themselves – to the electric



Members gather around the dinner table, at WEC's community meeting in East Corinth in 2010.

grid. In exchange, they receive credits toward their utility bills. For the past two years the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) has permitted Washington Electric Cooperative to run its own version of the net metering program, as a reward for WEC's achievements in the renewable energy sector.

However, what's most important now about net metering is that the PSB, on orders of the Vermont Legislature, has redesigned the statewide program, effective on January 1, 2017. All utilities, including Washington Electric Co-op, will be affected, and WEC members who are attracted to the idea of participating in the program will need to know its parameters. Members not interested, or not in a position to engage in net metering, will want to know if, and how, the program affects them.

WEC will be discussing net metering program changes in these pages in forthcoming issues, but the October 5 Community Meeting in Corinth provides a good opportunity for members to attend and engage in a discussion on the subject and its relevance to them.

Another topic on WEC's agenda is Vermont's "renewable energy standard," as defined in Act 56, which was passed by the Legislature in 2015. The Act sets out three "tiers" of requirements for all Vermont's electric utilities, but since WEC already largely meets or exceeds the first two tiers, it is Tier 3 – the "energy transformation program" – that stands to impact the Cooperative the most. Bernstein and Richards will lead a discussion on this subject, but a brief summary is that utilities will need to adopt programs that assist their customers, or members, in reducing their use of fossil fuel energy. It's a recognition that electricity is just one sphere of energy usage, and that Vermont must tackle fossil fuel consumption in transportation and other realms if the state is to meet the renewable energy goal (90 percent) it has set for itself by 2050.

"Our Co-op has to file a tariff – which means our plan – to comply with the 2017 net metering order by October 15," says Richards. "And it's pretty much the same with the renewable energy standard. We have to gear up and get these programs ready to roll out by the first of the new year."

So there's lots to talk about in the energy world, a world in which – statewide, at least – Washington Electric Co-op has long played an active, innovative, and progressive role. And make no mistake about it: changes in how electric utilities operate and what is required of them can and do impact their ratepayers.

"We want all our members to use energy efficiently," says General Manager Richards, "and for power they do use we will serve it from renewable resources. It is a win for our members and a win for the environment. Through these new programs, WEC will be working on non-electric energy program offerings such as how you heat your home and how you get around on the roads. We'll have much more to tell our members concerning these programs soon."

It's a good reason for members to attend the Corinth Community Meeting. It's bound to be an interesting evening. You'll be there, right?

### Dinner Reservation

(No charge for the dinner.)

**2016 Community Meeting**  
**October 5, 2016 • Corinth Town Hall**  
**Dinner @ 6:00pm • Meeting @ 7:00pm**

#### Meeting Agenda:

- Meet & greet WEC staff and Board of Directors
- What's on your mind

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Vegetarian  Member or  Guest  
(Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Vegetarian  Member or  Guest  
(Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Vegetarian  Member or  Guest  
(Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Vegetarian  Member or  Guest  
(Please print clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Map # \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs (gluten free food or accommodations): \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations must be received at the Co-op by September 23.**  
WEC/ Attn: Dawn Johnson, P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, VT 05651

